C!N
1011
Red Sonja

Sonja Thrives at Thirty-Five

You gotta admit—Sonja is looking particularly fit for a thirty-five year old!

Hard to believe that it was thirty-five years ago that *Roy Thomas & Barry Windsor-Smith* first introduced the fiery Sonja in the pages of ***Conan the Barbarian.*** For a while, the sexy sword-wielding warrior-woman was a superstar in her own right; after a while, though, her popularity waned and it appeared that she was relegated to a position in comic book history.

That was before Dynamite Entertainment, after determining that there was a great deal of life in Sonja still, brought her back to comics, where she found renewed success. And now Dynamite will commemorate that success with a number of Sonja projects.

What does the publisher have in store for this three-and-a-half-decade celebration? "More posters, more special miniseries and one shots, more statues, more *(ahem)* busts, and more of everything with the She-Devil!" *Nick Barrucci* of Dynamite Entertainment said. "Fans have been loving everything we're doing with the character and we're going to keep up the great stories, great art and great Sonja comics and collectibles. Look for the return of Thulsa Doom and a very special cross-over that will make your jaws drop!"

The celebration begins in the pages of Sonja's own comic. What does writer *Mike Avon Oeming* plan to do to mark the event? "She's going to have a baby, get a mini van and join the PTA. Then she's going to kill everyone because there were no more decaf to go with the donuts... That, or a huge epic battle between her and the world ruled Kulan Gath, one or the other!" Oeming joked.

Assuming that the war with Kulan Gath is a *little* more likely, can readers expect to see that confrontation play a major role in ***Red Sonja*** for some time to come? "Yes, but we won't be seeing a lot of Gath versus Sonja directly. That will happen, but by time Sonja gets back to her world (***Red Sonja #s 19-24*** set her on the other side of the world), she will find that Gath has taken over the world, killed all the heroes, and set himself up as God. There will be lots for her to deal with even before she can get to Gath. That battle will begin in ***Red Sonja #25."***

When Oeming first resurrected Kulan Gath in ***Red Sonja,*** did he set out to create an arch-enemy—a sort of "Dr. Doom"—for Sonja? "Yes, in a way.... We want Gath to be special. He's not a villain Sonja can just chop up or even fight with on a physical level. He'll be around for a long time, sometimes he's directly the adversary, other times, it's simply the world he has created. Sonja will often have to make a choice—go after Gath, or protect the people under his thumb. She might have a chance to kill Gath, but in doing so, a whole village might die-she'll have to choose. That's the kind of conflict that brings out great character moments."

Robert Howard's Conan went through several phases in his life—brash barbarian, pragmatic mercenary, controlling king—while Sonja has thus far remained much the same character for more than third of a century. Will this mark the beginning of another phase? "Well, I think this series has really begun a second leg of Sonja: Sonja the *human*. Until now she's been an amazing two dimensional warrior, I think this incarnation has given her a depth of soul she hasn't had before, and lots more flaws. Who is to say what comes next for Sonja? My goal is to always push the boundaries."

All this talk of anniversaries brings up another question: readers have been more accepting of aging with male heroes—but would it be possible to age Sonja without losing readers? Are readers on board for the sex appeal of the beautiful barbaric heroine, or is there more in play here? "With the current Sonja, it's probably not possible–or practical–to age her in real time. I will say there is more at play here than sex appeal... As I stated above, we've played to Sonja the human and added facets not seen before."

Not only does ***Red Sonja #19*** mark the character's thirty-fifth anniversary and a new phase in her conflict with Kulan Gath, it also features the debut of a new illustrator for the series: *Homs,* best known for his work on the miniseries ***Savage Red Sonja: Queen of the Frozen Wastes.*** What's this talented illustrator's background prior to his sidetrip into the Hyborean Age? "I studied for two years at La Llotja, a school of arts, but I left the school when work started to come my way, mostly as an illustrator for advertising and magazines. From that point on, I mixed illustration with comic-book work for Spain, France, and the USA. My first comic-book work for the american industry was an issue of the Marvel MAX ***Blade*** series—the last one, I think. I've also done some stories in ***Star Wars Tales*** an issue of the last ***Doc Samson*** mini and one of the stories from a Marvel Western anthology."

Was Homs familiar with Sonja prior to taking on ***Savage Red Sonja?*** "Yes, I knew the character, but I hadn't read too many of her stories because her book is not being published in Spain yet. I love Sonja very much and I think she's one of the most attractive and fun characters to draw."

Homs has a real skill for visually conveying Sonja's world as well as for illustrating the character herself; is he a fantasy fan? "Yeah, I've always loved fantasy, and I've been reading it since I was a kid, so all I've read serves as visual inspirations for my current work on the book. And of course, I think Sonja's universe is fascinating and very interesting to draw. Her stories use to be rich in terms of adventure, full of monsters, weird beings, and impossible environments, so I can leave my imagination fly free and enjoy designing cities, huge baddy bugs, or whatever is needed."

Does Homs view this as a long-term assignment? "I will be doing it as long as Dynamite wants to have me. As I said, I *love* the book, and I'm exclusive to Dynamite right now, so I think there will be more Sonja in my near future."

Is the artist up to the challenge of a monthly book? "Well, in the last five months, I've been able to do one book a month, pencils and inks, plus covers here and there. Some months are more complicated than others, and more when you start a new story, because prior to the actual work you have to do a research, development, and so on work in characters, backgrounds, environments... You also have to get familiar with them, and then it takes a little more effort to get back to your pace..."

Also in the works for January release is the ***Red Sonja 35th Anniversary Cover Showcase Collector's Book,*** featuring no-logo reproductions of art by *Frank Cho, Jim Lee, Steve McNiven, George Perez, John Cassaday, Michael Turner, JG Jones, Mel Rubi, & Neal Adams.* Will this also pave the way for a line of full-sized posters? "We've had so many great cover artists that we could do a poster a month and not run out of art!" Barrucci said. "But we're picking some of the fans favorites and offering them here and there, starting in with *Jim Lee* and *Frank Cho."*

Any plans for a ***Who's Who*** co help new readers become familiar with Sonja's cast of characters? "We're also taking the history or Red Sonja and putting it into our first ***Red Sonja Annual.*** The annual features a new Sonja story from Oeming and Sadowski and six pages of Sonja's history will be included – not exactly the Who's Who format, but all the vital info will be in there."

Of course, any discussion of Sonja's anniversary wouldn't be complete without a nod of thanks to her co-creator, *Roy Thomas,* who recently wrote a ***Red Sonja*** oneshot for Dynamite. Any other Thomas tales in the works? "We have a few things we're talking to Roy about. Everyone seemed to like his return to ***Red Sonja*** with the ***Monster Island*** one-shot and we're always happy to work with him—so, yes, there *will* be another return of Roy to Red Sonja."

Red Sonja #19, which features the beginning of the next phase of Sonja's war against Kulan Gath, is scheduled for January release; the book will feature covers by *Homs, Sean Chen, Adriano Batista,* and *Kevin Nowlan.* (For more info on other Dynamite ***Red Sonja*** anniversary celebration releases, check out the "Dynamite in January" feature elsewhere in this issue of ***CSN.)***

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

Comic Shop Newsarama

Produced by Comic Shop News in cooperation with Matt Brady and newsarama.com

New Life for Deadworld

Ever since its inception, *Deadworld* has focused on the zombies who dominate their apocalyptic world. But that's changing beginning with *Deadworld* #7; the "Slaughterhouse" story arc, which begins in that issue, puts the remnants of humanity in the spotlight, focusing on the attempts of the living to avoid extinction.

"I've always wanted to delve into this aspect with *Deadworld* and look not just at people running from zombies but to see how people will rise to meet the challenge of dealing with this scenario," writer *Gary Reed* said. "Obviously, you're going to have survival groups and some para-military organizations forming but you would also have a concerted effort by some of the bright minds in this country to deal with it on a scientific method. That's what the 'Slaughterhouse' story is about...dealing with those issues. As for why it's called 'Slaughterhouse'—well, that will be revealed."

According to Reed, "Slaughterhouse" was originally intended to be a stand-alone mini-series intended to offer new readers easy access to the series. "After talking it over with the publisher, it was decided to fold it into the regular storyline so we wouldn't have to launch a new series and instead just blend it with the ongoing storyline," Reed said. "After all, it does feature most of the same characters and settings so it actually is working out better this way."

At the same time that "Slaughterhouse" begins, Desperado Publishing and Image will also offer ***Deadworld: Requiem for the World,*** a collection of Image's ***Deadworld #s 1-6.*** "With number one selling out almost immediately and the other issues having very little issues remaining, we wanted to make sure that Deadworld was available to fans who want to get into one of the longest and most successful horror comics ever published, "Desperado publisher *Joe Pruett* said.

Both ***Deadworld #7*** and ***Deadworld: Requiem for the World*** are slated for December release.

Terra-fying News

A few weeks ago, *CSN* told you about a guest appearance of Terra in ***Supergirl #12.*** But isn't she...dead?

Well, at least *one* Terra was dead...but the one who's showing up in ***Supergirl*** is very much alive! But who is she?

"We brought in the idea for a new character and after a few months of back and forth we were asked if we could take elements from that character and apply her to bringing a new Terra to the DCU," said co-writer *Justin Gray,* who is working withwriting partner *Jimmy Palmiotti* and artist *Amanda Connor* on the special issue.

"Now I know what you're thinking and yeah, maybe the DCU *didn't* need a new Terra, but in working over the ideas and looking at her original origin, some exciting possibilities emerged. The same kind of thing happened when we brought Golden Eagle back in Hawkman."

But who is she, and what's her tie to the old Terra? "This is a new Terra same as the old Terra—only different." Gray said.

So how does Terra become involved in Supergirl's life? "Terra is an enigma for obvious reasons," Gray said. "Every hero in the DCU is in the dark about who she is and why she's doing what she's doing, which is running around the planet saving and helping people. We've been working with Terra for months and months trying to find and develop what's special about her.

"In the end it was a very simple angle, make Terra a superhero with plenty of emphasis on heroism. Everything she does is selfless and in the service of life. This is a great contrast to Supergirl who is trying to figure out what to do with herself and her powers. They meet when Terra is doing what she was born to do.

"Am I fan of the previous Terra? Hell yeah! She was a chain-smoking bitch—of course I dug that—but she also lacked a proper origin and that opens the door for a new Terra. There were no rules given to us but we devoted a lot of time to figuring out exactly how a new Terra could fit with the old continuity," Gray explained.

While this is the first appearance of the new Terra, it won't be her last: the character is set to star in a five-issue miniseries that will also be produced by Gray, Palmiotti, and Connor. "This has been in the works for quite a while now...since Amanda finished Power Girl," *Jimmy Palmiotti* said. "I think everyone will be happy to see the amazing amount of work and detail Amanda is bringing to the book. We couldn't be happier."

Supergirl #12 is slated for November release.

Coming Comics—DC in January

The New Year begins with the deadliest day Metropolis has ever seen—and by the end of the month a villain will stand revealed, a hero will fall in the outer reaches of the galaxy...and the reveal of Supernova will deepen his mysteries even further. Witness the revelations in ***52 Weeks 35-39*** by *Geoff Johns, Grant Morrison, Greg Rucka, Mark Waid, Keith Giffen,* and others.

DC unites superstar writers *Geoff Johns & Richard Donner* with an all-star lineup of artists that includes *Art Adams, Joe Kubert, Pete Woods, Rags Morales, Kevin Maguire, Eric Wight, & Tony Daniel*—and the result is ***Action Comics Annual #10.*** Don't miss it—not only will readers catch up on all that's new to Superman's world—they'll also catch a glimpse of things to come in future issues of ***Action***!

A crooked financier is supposed to testify against his equally crooked boss—but he's been intimidated out of making it to court by the one man he fears more than Batman: Deadshot! Witness his trials and tribulations in ***Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight #214*** by *Christos N. Gage & Phil Winslade*—the final issue of the long-running series.

Catwoman leaves Gotham behind as she heads to Metropolis in ***Catwoman #63*** by *Will Pfeifer, David Lopez, & Alvaro Lopez.* Holly is about to take the fall for the murder of Black Mask, and only a deal with the devil on Selina's part can save her. Will it be Superman to the rescue?

Paul Dini, Don Kramer, & Wayne Faucher introduce the all-new Ventriloquist in ***Detective Comics #827.*** After surviving a near-fatal explosion, Batman discovers the Ventriloquist and Scarface are back—with a vengeance. As the Dark Knight tries to unravel the mystery behind his enemies' resurrection, Scarface introduces the most feared names in the Gotham underworld to a surprising new ally in their war against Batman.

Dr. Fate is on his way back—but before he rejoins the DCU, his helmet is going to embark on an adventure without him! ***The Helmet of Fate,*** a five-part limited series, reveals what happens when the helmet falls into the hands of different DC heroes. It

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begins with ***The Helmet of Fate: Ibis the Invincible*** by *Tad Williams & Phil Winslade* and ***The Helmet of Fate: Detective Chimp*** by *Bill Willingham & Shawn McManus*—and with a beginning like that, what surprises can they have in store for February?

Dan Slott, Dan Jurgens, & Trevor Scott take readers to "The Fourth Parallel" beginning with ***JLA Classified #32.*** When lifetime loser Dareen Profitt finds a way to imprison he League's master villain Dr. Destiny and wrests control of the reality-warping Materiopticon, his luck seems likely to change. Which is bad for the JLA and the DCU as we know it!

JSA Classified #s 21 & 22 continue the four-part story by *Walter Simonson* that began in ***Hawkgirl #59.*** Find out where Hawkman's been since Hawkgirl returned to Earth—and why it takes a war to bring them back together. The story concludes in ***Hawkgirl #60*** as Hawkgirl defines her next priority on Earth: destroy Hath-Set and break the vicious circle of the Hawks' doomed existences.

There's a new OMAC on the rise in ***OMAC #7*** by *Bruce Jones & Renato Guedes.* But where did it come from, and what powers does it have that Mike Costner doesn't?

Most important, how will this new OMAC allow Brother Eye to move forward with its plans for human conquest—and can Mike survive this latest threat, or will there really be one OMAC left standing?

Klarion the Witch Boy makes his first post-***Seven Soldiers*** appearance in ***Robin #158*** by *Adam Beechen & Frazer Irving.* Robin and Klarion must use the skills and magic at their command to save Klarion's cat, Teekl, and all of Gotham City from a creature built entirely of black magic — the rampaging Judgment Beast!

Is Superman an angel? A messenger from heaven itself? One woman believes with all her heart, but her faith in Superman may lead to disaster in ***Superman #660*** by *Kurt Busiek, Fabian Nicieza, Carlos Pacheco, Peter Vale, & Jesus Merino.*

Individually, the Dark Knight and the Man of Steel have faced some of the deadliest alien killers ever to escape from a Fox movie lot—but until now, they've haven't teamed up to face both alien meanies at the same time! That changes with the debut of ***Superman & Batman Vs. Aliens & Predators*** by *Mark Schultz & Ariel Olivetti,* co-published with Dark Horse. The relentless killing machines known as Aliens and the unstoppable race of hunters called Predators have returned to Earth. But saying "they're back" isn't quite accurate—Batman discovers that the two races, sealed away from the human population, have been here all along! Can he and Superman get them off our world before they threaten the planet's existence?

The long-awaited "Titans East" story arc by *Geoff Johns, Tony Daniel, & Jonathan Glapion* begins in ***Teen Titans #43.*** Led by Deathstroke, a Teen Titans team consisting of Batgirl, Risk, Match, Alter Boy, Enigma, Sun Girl and Inertia is out to prove that they've got what it takes—and then some!

DC's collected editions include

- ***Batman: The Greatest Stories Ever Told Volume Two,*** featuring more than 200 great tales by *Bob Kane, Bill Finger, Roy Thomas, Carmine Infantino, Marshall Rogers, Neal Adams,* and others;
- ***Birds of Prey: Perfect Pitch,*** collecting ***Birds of Prey #s 86-90 & 92-95;***
- ***Catwoman: The Replacements,*** collecting ***Catwoman #s 53-58;***
- ***Checkmate Volume One: A King's Game,*** collecting the first seven issues of the *Greg Rucka-Jesus Saiz* series;
- ***Firestorm: The Nuclear Man—Reborn,*** collecting ***Firestorm #s 23-27;***
- ***Justice Society Volume Two,*** collecting more tales by *Paul Levitz, Joe Staton, Bob Layton,* and others from ***All-Star Comics #s 68-74*** and ***Adventure #s 461-466;***
- ***Seven Soldiers of Victory Volume Four,*** collecting the final segments of *Grant Morrison's* meta-story from ***Frankenstein #s 2-4, Mister Miracle #s 3-4, Bulleteer #s 3-4,*** and ***Seven Soldiers of Victory #1;***
- ***Showcase Presents Green Lantern Volume Two,*** collecting the Silver Age classics from ***Green Lantern #s 18-37*** and ***Flash #143;***
- ***Showcase Presents Aquaman Volume One,*** collecting aquatic adventures from ***Adventure #s 260-280, 282, & 284,*** along with a few other gems;
- ***Superman: Action Comics Archives Volume Five,*** a hardcover collection of the Superman tales from ***Action #s 69-85;***
- ***Superman Chronicles Volume Two,*** collecting classic Golden Age tales from ***Action #s 14-20*** and ***Superman #s 2 & 3;***
- ***Teen Titans: Titans Around the World,*** collecting ***Teen Titans #s 34-41;***

Coming Comics—WildStorm/DC in January

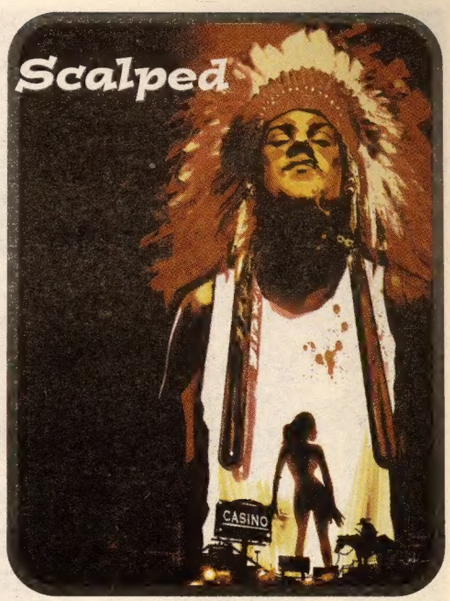
The Midnighter learns the problems inherent in tampering with the laws of time in ***Midnighter #3*** by *Garth Ennis, Chris Sprouse, & Karl Story.*

WildStorm collected editions include:

- ***The American Way,*** collecting the limited series by *John Ridley, Georges Jeanty, & Karl Story;* and
- ***Danger Girl: Back in Black,*** collecting the four-part series by *Andy Hartnell, Nick Bradshaw, & Jim Charalampidis.*

Coming Comics—Vertigo in January

What do you get when you blend contemporary Native American culture with ***Sopranos***-style drama? You get ***Scalped,*** the new ongoing series by *Jason Aaron & R.M. Guera.* Fifteen years ago, Dashiell "Dash" Bad Horse ran away from a life of abject poverty and utter hopelessness on the Prairie Rose Indian Reservation in hopes of finding something better. Now, he's come back home to find nothing much has changed on "The Rez"—short of a glimmering new casino, and a once-proud people overcome by drugs and organized crime. So is he back to set things right—or to get a piece of the action? And what about Red Crow, a former "Red Power" activist turned burgeoning crime boss who figures that after 100 years of the Lakota being robbed and murdered by the white man, it's now time to return the favor.



Vertigo collected editions include:

- ***DMZ Volume Two: Body of a Journalist,*** collecting #s 6-12 of the *Brian Wood* series;
- ***Jack of Fables Volume One: The (Nearly) Great Escape,*** collecting ***Jack of Fables #s 1-7;***
- ***Neil Gaiman & Charles Vess's Stardust,*** a new softcover edition of the memorable Victorian-era fantasy tale slated for motion picture release;
- ***Neil Gaiman's Neverwhere,*** collecting the nine-issue adaptation of Gaiman's novel.

Coming in June 2007 from DC Direct

Bill Willingham & Mark Buckingham's ***Fables*** is the inspiration for *Jim Maddox's* ***Fables Statue: Bigby & Snow,*** a 10 1/2" H x 8" W x 9" D sculpture that is the first based on this best-selling Vertigo series.

Todd McFarlane and McFarlane Toys do the design and sculpting for the stunning ***Batman/Spawn Statue,*** capturing the moody melodrama of McFarlane's version of both characters. C'Mon—Batman by McFarlane? You *know* you gotta have it!

Batman, Superman, Wonder Woman, and ***Green Lantern*** return in the ***Reactivated! Kingdom Come Series 2 Action Figures,*** based on the art of *Alex Ross.*

The JLA on Apokolips is the focus of DC Direct's ***Who's Who Mystery Box Set #3***—and the six figures include bonus parts that can be assembled to create a miniature Darkseid statue. Each includes a full-color collectible character profile card. The set includes ***Superman, Batman, Plastic Man, Big Barda & Mr. Miracle, Wonder Woman,*** and ***Orion & Kalibak.***

The sold-out ***Batman Deluxe Vinyl Statue by Kotobukiya*** returns in a limited edition new production run—so if you missed out on this eye-catching collectible the first time around, it looks like there *are* second

Continued on page 6

JEPH LOEB • ROB LIEFELD

ONSLAUGHT REBORN

After killing the world's greatest heroes, he has returned!

ONSLAUGHT: REBORN #1

Variant Cover by Michael Turner

NOVEMBER 2006

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A significant portion of the proceeds from ONSLAUGHT REBORN #1-5 will be donated to The Sam Loeb College Scholarship Fund.

chances. And what better coordinating item to accompany this reissue than ***The Joker Deluxe Vinyl Statue by Kotobukiya,*** a deluxe 1:6 scale vinyl statue of Batman's deadliest arch-nemesis.

Comics Comics—Marvel in January

What's the origin of M-11 the Human Robot? Who are the members of the Circus of Crime? What are the powers of Spider-Man 2099? Who are Digitek and Garko the Man-Frog? Who was Cage's first costumed foe? Find the answers to all these questions and many more in ***All-New Official Handbook of the Marvel Universe A to Z Update #1,*** the first part of a four-issue miniseries.

On the trail of the Hobgoblin and the lethal legacy of Wilson Fisk, Mayday Parker must deal with a new player: Mad Dog, the bounty hunter who employs the weapons of the former super-villains he's captured. Meet him in ***Amazing Spider-Girl #4*** by *Tom DeFalco & Ron Frenz.*

It's claws versus blades as Wolverine takes his Vendetta into the realm of vampires in ***Blade #5,*** a ***Civil War*** tie-in written by "Wolverine: Vendetta" scribe *Marc Guggenheim* and illustrated by *Howard Chaykin.*

The story of an alternate Marvel Universe, changed by a single bullet, continues to unravel in *J. Michael Straczynski & Tommy Lee Edwards'* ***Bullet Points #3.*** Peter Parker—now transformed into a hideous Hulk—battles Iron Man, Steve Rogers, to the death and scientist Reed Richards blasts off towards his ultimate destiny as the world's greatest super spy!

As the Civil War rages, two of the universe's greatest heroes are confronted with pasts they can't leave behind in ***Civil War: The Return,*** a oneshot by *Paul Jenkins & Tom Raney.* On Earth, the Sentry confronts his inner demons as the shadows of past and future battles tear him apart. Within The Negative Zone, the walls of 42 are pulled back to reveal the return of one of the Marveldom's greatest heroes...now face-to-face with a Universe they no longer recognize.

Chris Claremont begins his run on Marvel's reality-hopping series with ***Exiles #90,*** joining artist *Paul Pelletier.* In their first issue, they introduce a new member to the team as Psylocke joins the ranks. What is she doing there? How will the team deal with her arrival? And what new villains plan on destroying every world in existence?

Now *this* is a late book!... In 1998, ***Ghost Rider #93*** ended with a shocking cliffhanger: the death of Dan Ketch, the Ghost Rider's human host! But the book was canceled prematurely, prior to the release of the series finale in ***Ghost Rider #94***–which had already been written and was almost entirely penciled. Now, the final fate of Dan Ketch is revealed with the publication of this "missing issue" in the pages of ***Ghost Rider Finale.*** See what *Ivan Velez, Javier Saltares, &Mark Texeira* had planned almost a decade ago in this special book that also includes a reprint of ***Ghost Rider #93*** and some bonus features.

One one side, a high-tech insurgent mecha subculture; on the other, a well-armed "cape-killing" paramilitary force. And right in the middle—Iron Man! The armored Avenger is in high-tech trouble in ***Iron Man: HyperVelocity,*** a six-issue limited series by *Adam Warren & Brian Denham.*

Doomsday Man returns in *Brian Reed & Roberto de la Torre's* ***Ms. Marvel #11.*** But who reactivated him—and what plan do they have to control him?

Paul Jenkins & Paolo Rivera present a retelling of the complex origins of Johnny Blaze in ***Mythos: Ghost Rider,*** a self-contained oneshot that bridges the divide between comics and the upcoming film. What would cause a man to barter his soul with Satan, becoming an unholy Spirit of Vengeance in the process? You might be surprised!

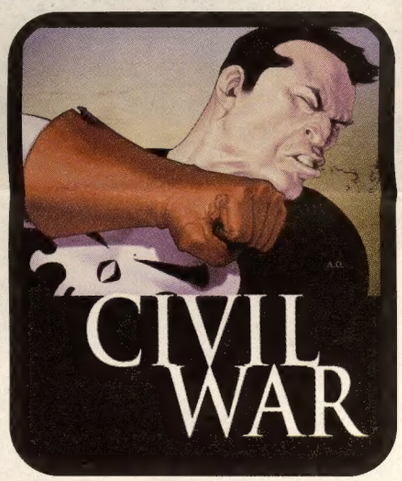
In *Brian Reed & Guiseppe Camuncoli's* ***Ms. Marvel Special,*** a child with the ability to turn anything he imagines into reality shakes up the New York City library when he delves into the pages of Carol Danvers' semi-autobiographical SF novel ***Binary.*** It looks like Ms. Marvel's going to need help from Wonder Man to get her life under control!

The Infinity Gems offer their users complete mastery of the universe -- if any one of the Gems fell into the wrong hands, it would be catastrophic. So, when the Illuminati discover the Infinity Gems are scattered across the cosmos, completely unguarded, the race is on to collect them before anyone else learns the truth. The fate of the Marvel Universe hangs in the balance as *Brian Bendis, Brian Reed, & Jim Cheung* revisit another pivotal moment in Marvel history in ***New Avengers: Illuminati #2.***

Before ***Rising Stars,*** before ***Heroes,*** there was another tale of humans transformed into something more by an inexplicable event—and *Warren Ellis & Salvador Larroca* continue their revisitation of that alternate reality in ***newuniversal #2.*** The White Event is a mystery to most humans—but there are some who have been remade by its power—and now they have to figure out just how they fit into their world.

Frank Castle is about to face off against a quintet who want him dead—five women whose husbands were eliminated by the Punisher. Now they want payback—and they have a plan to make it happen. See them in action in "Widowmaker," a seven-part arc by *Garth Ennis & Lan Medina* that begins in ***Punisher #43.***

The Punisher faces off against Captain America in *Matt Fraction & Ariel Olivetti's* ***Punisher War Journal #3.*** A clash that's been building for thirty years comes to a ferocious head, and the reverberations will be felt for months to come. Cap made a deal with the devil--what happens when the devil comes to collect?



Brian K. Vaughan & Adrian Alphona say farewell to their creation in ***Runaways #24***—and they have some surprises in store for their final issue as they pave the way for the debut of *Joss Whedon & Michael Ryan* next month.

Warren Ellis & Stuart Immonen bring their offbeat ***Nextwave: Agents of HATE*** to a close with the twelfth issue—and it promises to be even zanier than usual!

With the Hulk tied up with his Illuminati-instigated offworld adventure, who's going to hold off his bad guys? Howsabout She-Hulk: Agent of SHIELD? Jen begins her confrontations with the Hulk's rogues gallery in ***She-Hulk #15*** by *Dan Slott & Rick Burchett.*

In the aftermath of ***Son of M,*** Black Bolt declared war on humanity. That war escalates to the next level when Gorgon leads an attack on New York in ***Silent War #1*** by *David Hine & Roy Allan Martinez.*

Two high-profile heroes of the Supremeverse face off at last in ***Squadron Supreme: Hyperion Vs. Nighthawk,*** a five-issue limited series by *Marc Guggenheim & Paul Gulacy.*

Warren Ellis & Mike Deodato present an all-new, deadlier-than-ever lineup in ***Thunderbolts #110.*** You saw 'em at the end of ***Civil War #4***—now witness what happens when the government enlists some of the most powerful super-villains to track down unregistered superhumans! Venom... Moonstone...Bullseye...Songbird... The Radioactive Man...The Green Goblin... Penance...this sounds *really* ominous...

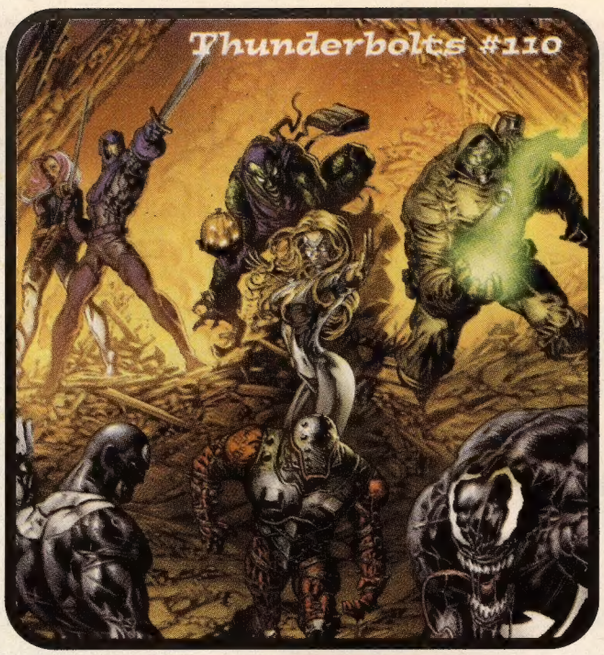
This little piggy goes to war...and you can see it for yourself in ***Ultimate Civil War Spider-Ham Crisis (Featuring Wolver-ham),*** by *J. Michael Straczynski, Mike Wieringo, Mike allred, John Severin, Nick Dragotta, Ariel Olivetti, & Jim Mahfood.* Guest-starring: Iron Ham, Deviled Ham, Fantastic Ham, Green Ham, Ant-Ham, Ultimate Captain Ham, Hambit, Hamneto, and everyone's favorite Sorcerer Supreme...(or is that Supr-ham?...)

The first issue of the Ultiverse-Supremeverse crossover is presented in an extras-laden edition in ***Ultimate Power #1 Director's Cut.***

Brian Bendis & Mark Bagley's ***Ultimate Spider-Man #104*** brings to a close the Clone Saga. Everything has led to this moment, as a battered and beaten Spider-Man faces off against the ascendant master of many arms: Doctor Octopus, in the greatest battle of the web spinner's young career. The life of Peter Parker and those he loves will never be the same—a true turning point for the Ultimate wall-crawler!

Jeph Loeb & Simone Bianchi begin their run with ***Wolverine #50,*** a double-sized issue that also features art by Loeb's ***Superman/Batman*** collaborator *Ed McGuinness.* The all-star creative team isn't the only reason fans will want this issue: it also features a faceoff between Wolverine and Sabretooth, and a backup story pitting Logan against the Hulk. This issue will also be offered in a black-and-white edition for those who want to admire Bianchi & McGuinness's art without that pesky coloring getting in the way.

Rogue and her team have unfinished business on board the SHIELD Helicarrier—business that concerns the twins, Northstar and Aurora, and a last-ditch attempt to restore them to their right minds. See how it works out in ***X-Men Annual #1*** by *Mike Carey & Mark Brooks.*



Marvel collected editions include:

- ***Astonishing X-Men Volume Three: Torn,*** collecting the third story arc by *Joss Whedon & John Cassaday;*
- ***Avengers Assemble Volume 4,*** a hardcover collection of ***Avengers #s 35-40, Annual 2000-2001, Maximum Security #s 1-3,*** and ***Dangerous Planet;***
- ***Champions Classic Volume Two,*** collecting ***Champions #s 12-17, Iron Man Annual #4, Avengers #163, Super-Villain Team-Up #14,*** and ***Peter Parker: Spectacular Spider-Man #s 17-18;***
- ***Defenders: Indefensible,*** collecting the zany limited series by *Keith Giffen, J.M. DeMatteis, & Kevin Maguire;*
- ***Fantastic Four: Books of Doom,*** collecting the six-issue limited series focusing on Doctor Doom;
- ***Essential Ghost Rider Volume 2,*** a black-and-white collection of ***Ghost Rider #s 21-50;***
- ***Essential X-Factor Volume Two,*** a black-and-white compendium that includes ***X-Factor #s 17-35, Annual #2,*** and ***Thor #378;***
- ***Ghost Rider: Road to Damnation,*** collecting the *Garth Ennis-Clayton Crain* limited series;
- ***Ghost Rider Volume One: Vicious Cycle,*** collecting the first five issues of the ongoing series;
- ***Iron Man: Armor Wars,*** collecting the epic saga from ***Iron Man #s 225-232;***
- ***Iron Man: Extremis,*** collecting the *Warren Ellis-Adi Granov* story arc from ***Iron Man #s 1-6;***
- ***Marvel Adventures Spider-Man Volume Five: Monsters on the Prowl,*** collecting ***Marvel Adventures Spider-Man #s 17-20;***
- ***Marvel Masterworks: Atlas Era Heroes,*** a hardcover compilation of rarely-seen 1950's superhero tales by *Stan Lee, Bill Everett, John Romita, Carl Burgos, Russ Heath, & Wayne Boring* originally published in ***Marvel Boy #s 1 & 2, Astonishing #s 3-6,*** and ***Young Men #24-28;***
- ***Marvel Masterworks: Warlock Volume One,*** collecting ***Marvel Premiere #s 1-2, Warlock #s 1-8,*** and ***Incredible Hulk #s 176-178;***
- ***Marvel Romance Redux: Another Kind of Love,*** collecting the offbeat rewrites of classic Marvel romance tales;
- ***Marvel Team-Up Volume Four: Freedom Ring,*** collecting the final six-issue arc from ***Marvel Team-Up;***
- ***New Mutants Classic Volume Two,*** collecting ***New Mutants #s 8-17;***
- ***Spider-Man: Death of the Stacy's Premiere HC,*** collecting the death of Captain Stacy and his daughter Gwen from ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 88-92 & 121-122;***
- ***Storm Premiere HC,*** collecting the limited series by *Eric Jerome Dickey, David Yardin, & Lan Medina;*
- ***Ultimate Annuals Volume 2,*** collecting the four ***Ultimate Annuals*** from this past summer;
- ***Ultimate X-Men Volume 15: Magical,*** collecting ***Ultimate X-Men #s 72-74 & Annual #2;***
- ***Wolverine & Black Cat: Claws,*** a hardcover collection of the miniseries by *Jimmy Palmiotti, Justin Gray, & Joseph Michael Linsner,* along with bonus pages;
- ***X-Factor: Life & Death Matters,*** a hardcover collection of ***X-Factor #s 7-12;*** and
- ***XIII,*** a trade paperback from Marvel and Dabel Bros. collecting the suspense series by *William Vance & Ben Avery.*

Coming Comics—Dynamite in January

Red Sonja kicks off her 35th Anniversary with a new storyline and a new artist. "Animals" is the storyline, pitting Sonja against the tyrannical Kulan Gath; and *Homs* is the artist, joining writer *Michael Avon Oeming* on the ongoing series. (See this issue's front page story for more info.)

The art of *Frank Cho, Jim Lee, Steve McNiven, George Perez, John Cassaday, Michael Turner, JG Jones, Mel Rubi, & Neal Adams* gets the spotlight in the ***Red Sonja 35th Anniversary Cover Showcase Collector's Book.*** *Michael Turner* contributes the original cover and a behind the scenes look at the making of a ***Red Sonja*** image.

Shawn Nagle interprets the art of *Gabrielle Dell'Otto,* transforming it into the ***Dynamite Select Red Sonja Bust,*** a statuesque followup to the sold-out ***Red Sonja Statue.***

Battlestar Galactica #s 0-4 are collected in the ***New Battlestar Galactica Hardcover,*** which features a new cover by *Steve McNiven* as well as complete cover gallery, DVD-style commentary from the creative team, behind-the-scenes material, and more!

Dynamite's poster releases include ***The Red Sonja 35th Anniversary Poster,*** featuring *Jim Lee & Richard Isanove's* art from ***Red Sonja #12; The Lone Ranger Poster,*** featuring *John Cassaday & Dean White's* image from the second printing of ***Lone Ranger #1;*** and a unique 1" x 30" poster comprised of uncut sheets of the first cover from ***Highlander #1.***

Dark Xena returns in ***Xena #6*** by *John Layman & Noah Salonga.* Gabrielle and Joxer concoct a plan to infiltrate Xena and her her ruthless criminal companions. Can Gabby and Joxer find their way in, convert Xena, and not lose their heads in the process?

Ins & Outs

In: Writer *Javier Grillo-Marxuach,* who is contributing a story arc to Dynamite's ***Classic Battlestar Galactica.*** Grillo-Marxuach is best known for his work on the television series ***Lost.***

Out: The first issue of the hit ***Justice League of America*** by *Brad Meltzer & Ed Benes* has sold out of both covers—but if you missed out on *the* team book of 2006, you're about to get a second chance! DC is going back to press with a second printing, featuring a new cover image that combines the A and B covers into a single piece of art.

In: Artist *Milx,* who dropped out of sight shortly after illustrating the first issue of Marvel's ***Silver Surfer*** series a few years ago. The illustrator is back and is working with writer *Steve Niles* on ***Frankenstein: Overdrive,*** a Shelley-esque reinterpretation that has yet to land with a publisher.

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